Financial Assistance to Indian Women

2542. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has finalized a scheme to provide financial assistance to Indian women, who have either been deserted or divorced by their overseas Indian spouses within two years of marriage;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the estimated number of such women who have been deserted; and

(d) the reasons for imposing two years restriction by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has launched a scheme for providing legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses. A copy of the scheme is given in the Statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to USQ 2539 Part (a) to (c)]. As per provisions of the ameded scheme a women deserted or divorced by her overseas Indian spouse within 5 years of the marriage is entitled for benefit under the scheme. In case of *ex-parte* divorce, women divorced within 10 years of their marriage are entitled for the benefit.

The number of complaints received by Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs in this regard during the last three years is indicated below:

Year 2005	–	19
Year 2006	–	65
Year 2007(till August)	–	89
TOTAL:	–	173

University for NRIs

2543. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposed NRI university and its location;

(b) the details of the applications received in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has given a proposal to set up the University in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) A policy framework for setting up a PIO/NRI University at a suitable place in the country, ensuring flexibility in the choice of disciplines and courses offered, has been approved by the Government. Salient features of the proposed University are given in the Statement (*See* below). 16 proposals have been received

in this connection, which will be examined by a Screening Committee constituted for the purpose. Location of the University will be known after proposals have been examined.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

Statement

The salient features of the proposed NRI University

- The University will be set up by Overseas Indian Trusts or Societies with credibility and experience in the field of education under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and will have the status of ''Deemed University'' *de novo* under Section 3 of the UGC Act.
- 50% seats will be earmarked for PIO/NRI students and 50% for resident Indian students. The existing government policy on reservation will apply for the 50% reserved seats for resident Indian students.
- Full autonomy will be granted to the NRI/PIO University in curriculum design, appointment/selection of personnel, faculty, admission procedure, etc. The University will also enjoy full autonomy in financial matters and fees for NRI/PIO students, intake of PIO/NRI students, etc.
- The proposed NRI/PIO University will conform to the standards set by the regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, MCI, etc. as a minimum benchmark. However, the institution has the option to benchmark itself to the best international standards.
- The University will adhere to the norms and procedures of Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Indian Nursing Council and Pharmacy Council of India for setting up of Medical College/Dental College/Pharmacy College/Nursing College under their respective Acts and Regulations.

District Planning Committees

2544. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the provisions of the Constitution, the District Planning Committees are to be set up in every State except Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Committees in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh have been constituted;

(c) whether any measures are being taken to make them sensitive and procative to local needs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and